The matter was referred to the Ministry in November, 1999, their reply was awaited as of January, 2000.

National Malaria Eradication Programme

3455. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Malaria Eradication Programme failed to make a significant dent on the incidence of malaria; and

(b) if so, the number of deaths due to malaria in 1996, 1997 and 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF **HEALTH AND** FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No, Sir. With **the** launching of Modified Plan of Operation (MPO) for control of malaria since April, 1997, the incidence of the disease was brought down to 2.18 million cases in 1984 against 6.47 million cases recorded in 1976. Since then, the incidence of malaria has been contained between 2-3 million cases annually. There has been a declining trend in incidence of malaria since 1997.

(b) The number of reported deaths due to malaria during 1996, 1997 and 1999 are as under:—

Year	No. of Deaths
1996	1010
1997	879
1999 (Provisional)	1060

Mysterious Disease in Mumbai

3456. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the first two weeks of July, 2000, Mumbai and surrounding areas suffered loss of many human lives due to some unknown disease;

(b) if so, what was the disease; how many lives were lost; and

(c) what remedial action has been taken by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) to (c) During the third week of July, 2000, cases of fever not responding to usual treatment were admitted in hospitals in and around Kalyan. The disease was suspected to be leptospirosis and this was confirmed subsequently by laboratory diagnosis.

Till 16.8.2000, 158 cases were admitted as confirmed cases of Leptospirosis out of which 12 patients have died.

Government of India immediately on receipt of news sent experts with diagnostic kits from the Indian Council of Medical Research and National Institute of Communicable Diseases to help the State authorities to control the outbreak. The situation is under control.

Implementing the Pay Commission's Recommendations in RML Hospital

3457. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARY A: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of the pay commission could not be implemented with regard to the Group C and D employees of RML Hospital till date; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) and (b) As per information available, the Vth Pay Commission recommendations in respect of Group C and D employees of RML Hospital have been implemented except in the cases of OT Technicians and Radiographers. Grant of enhanced scale of pay to OT Technicians and Radiographers as against the replacement scale of pay is under consideration.

Reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality Rates

3458. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of health sub centers, primary health centers and community health centers required for reducing maternal and infant mortality rates and successful running of family planning programme, to control population in the country; and